



Summary

What's New in the Labour Force

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LABOUR FORCE

REVISED POPULATION REBENCHMARKS

The latest available Estimated Resident Population data has been incorporated into revised population benchmarks which underpin the compilation of the Labour Force series. Labour Force series from January 2014 to October 2015 have been revised in original terms, with related revisions to seasonally adjusted and trend data. Revised series (including data up to the October 2015 reference month but prior to the inclusion of the November 2015 data), were released on 3 December 2015 in the October 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia - Rebenchmarked Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0.55.003). The inclusion of the November 2015 data in this issue will result in further revisions to the seasonally adjusted and trend data as a result of the usual concurrent seasonal adjustment process.

NEW LABOUR FORCE OUTPUTS

New data measuring monthly underutilisation have been released with the November 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia, in spreadsheet tables 24 and 25. This data is on the same conceptual basis as the existing quarterly measures of underutilisation. However, since the monthly data is only available from July 2014, seasonally adjusted and trend data on a monthly basis will not be available until mid 2017. A minimum of three years of data are generally required before seasonality can be reliably determined. At the same time in mid 2017, the scope of underemployment (which is one component of underutilisation) will be expanded to include those who are employed on a full-time basis and have sought and are available for additional hours.

To assist in the initial interpretation and use of the monthly underutilisation data, a brief article is available electronically with this release.

Further new outputs will be released with the November 2015 releases of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). These new outputs will be added to these releases on 23 December 2015, rather than with the main release on 17 December. New outputs attached to these products will include information relating to:

- monthly Full-time / part-time job search
- quarterly Volume measures of labour underutilisation
- quarterly Retrenchment
- quarterly Sector of main job (public / private).

A brief article will be released for each of the new items to assist in the initial interpretation and use of the data.

The new Status in Employment classification (which includes information on leave entitlements) was introduced in the July and August 2015 issues of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), respectively.

New outputs relating to educational attainment and educational attendance will not be included with the information published on December 23, as the data are undergoing further quality assurance, prior to their release. The ABS intends to release this data in the first half of 2016.

Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATION 7 FROM THE INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Summary of an independent technical review into the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the ABS response to the review's recommendations were released on the ABS website on 9 December 2014. For details see the November 2014 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). Recommendation 7 of the review related to the use of Bayesian techniques in identifying and resolving problems with the LFS. An update on progress with this recommendation was provided in the May 2015 issue, and this note provides a further update.

Recommendation 7 of the review and the ABS response are:

Recommendation 7: Bayesian techniques should be considered as a means of identifying and resolving potential problems in core LFS series.

ABS Response: Agree and is in progress (in relation to assessing the relevance of the techniques) with findings to be reported by June 2015.

While the ABS is investigating Bayesian and related techniques, the ABS will continue to use the current composite estimator methodology for the Labour Force Survey and considerable additional work is required before these techniques can be considered a viable alternative.

MULTI-SOURCE METHODS

Following consultation with academics and stakeholders, the ABS has identified a number of indicator series and data sources that could potentially inform Labour Force estimates. This process considered a broad range of data sources that labour force analysts use to increase their understanding of the current labour market, including the data sources that have been assessed by the Department of Employment for their Leading Indicator of Employment.

These data sources are used by analysts in a variety of ways. In considering these different approaches, it is important to note that Bayesian techniques are one method of incorporating multiple sources of information, but there are also a range of other approaches. Recognising this, the ABS has now expanded its consideration of methods in which other information sources can be used, to more fully consider the possible multi-source methods.

Work is currently underway to further assess external sources of information and to determine how multi-source methods could be used to inform an estimate of current month labour force outcomes. For example, a Job Vacancies series provides some indication of labour market demand, but does not enable the direct estimation of the number of people employed or unemployed. Mathematical modelling can determine the relationship between the information source and the labour force outcomes, and the model can then be used to assess labour force outcomes from the information source.

No changes will be made to the estimation methodology for labour force statistics without extensive consultation, and if any change is proposed it will be communicated and explained well in advance of implementation.

The next update on this research is expected to be provided in the May 2016 issue.

Measures of underemployment and underutilisation

MEASURES OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND UNDERUTILISATION

INTRODUCTION

Underemployment describes a situation where the potential labour of employed people is not fully utilised. Along with unemployment, it is an important indicator of unused capacity given current labour market conditions.

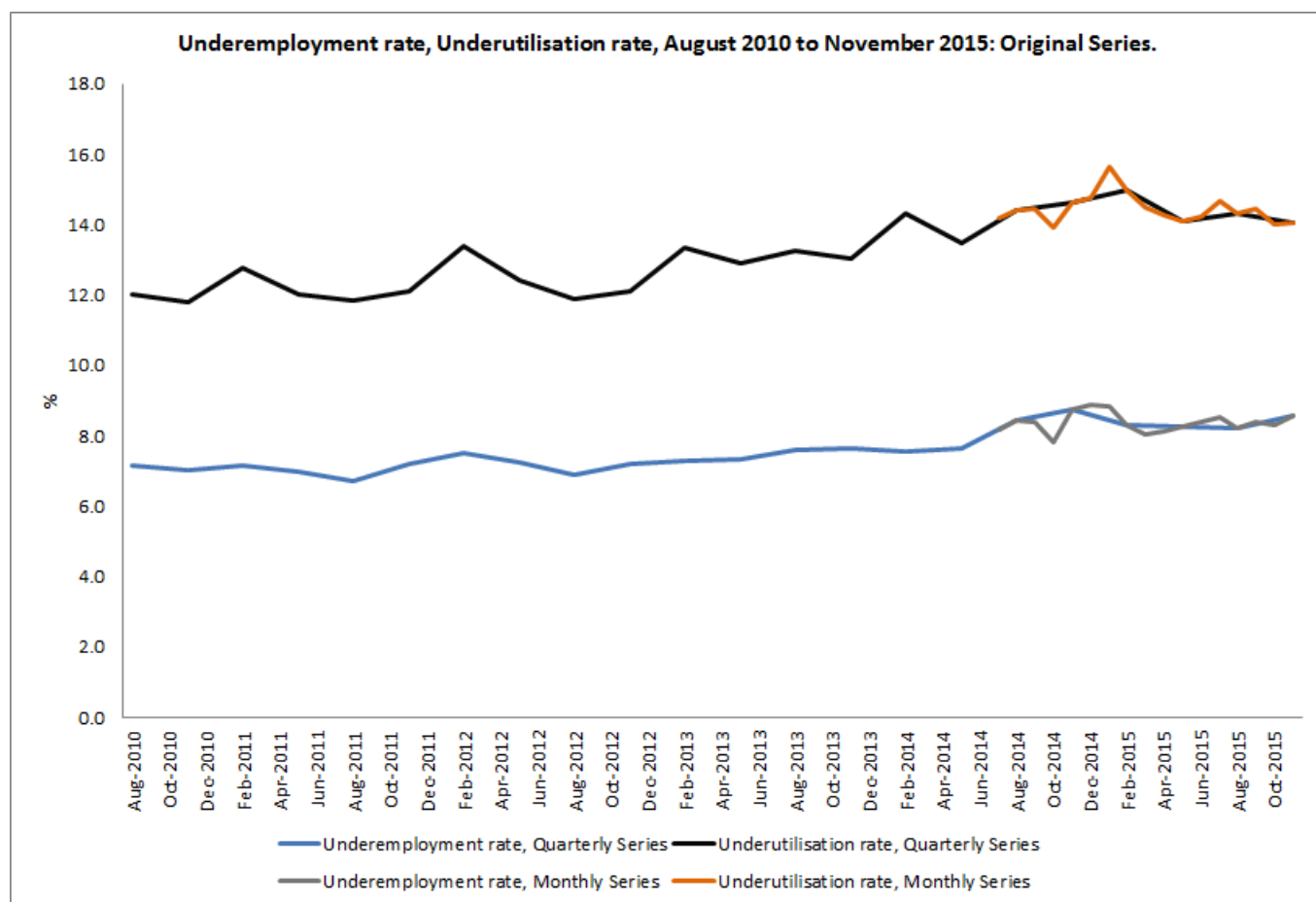
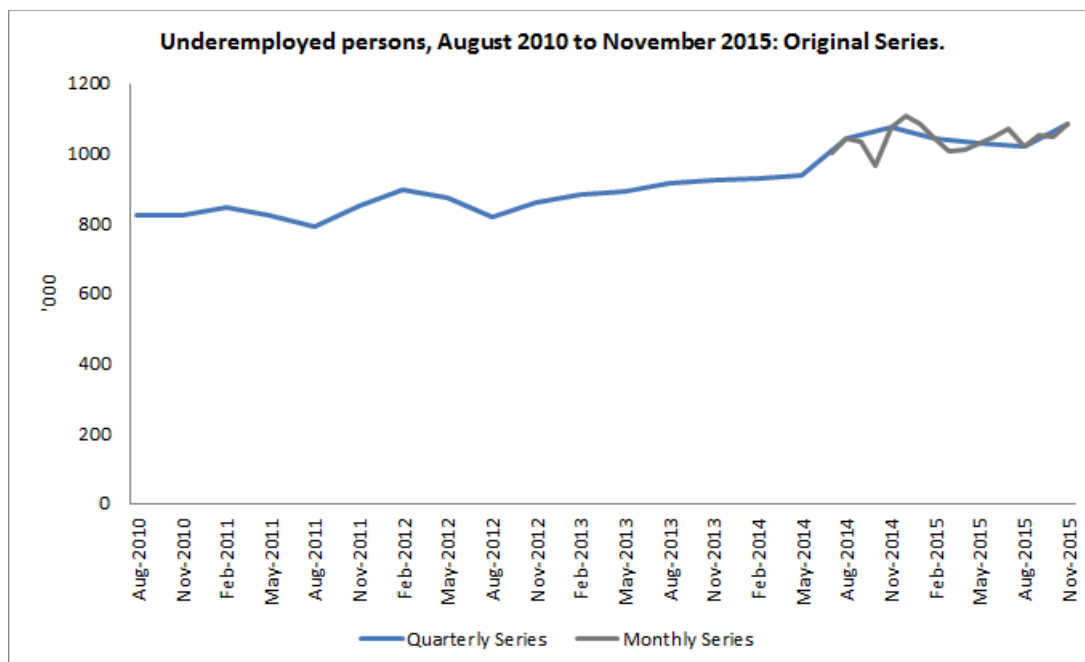
Underutilisation encapsulates both unemployment and underemployment and provides more comprehensive information on the state of labour market and measures the extent to which all available labour force resources are not being fully used in the economy.

Given the importance of these measures, their frequency has been increased from quarterly to monthly from July 2014, as one of the Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review (cat. no. 6107.0). From the November 2015 issue, original monthly underemployment and underutilisation information, covering July 2014 onwards, will be released in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). This is in addition to the quarterly series, which will continue.

For most analytical purposes, trend or seasonally adjusted data are preferred. Given that at least three years of original monthly data are required before seasonality can be reliably determined, monthly seasonally adjusted and trend series will not be produced before July 2017. In the meantime, the ABS will continue to provide original, seasonally adjusted, and trend underemployment and underutilisation data on a quarterly basis, and monthly data on an original basis.

NEW MONTHLY UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND UNDERUTILISATION SERIES

Time series of the quarterly data, along with the new monthly data now available, are shown below.



SCOPE OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND UNDERUTILISATION

In addition to changing the frequency of underemployment and underutilisation measures (from July 2014), the ABS will also be expanding the scope of the series (from July 2017).

Currently, the scope of underemployed people includes:

- people employed part time who wanted to work more hours and were available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; or
- people employed full time who worked part time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (endnote 1).

When monthly seasonally adjusted and trend underemployment and underutilisation series become available, the scope of the underemployment measure will be increased to include all employed people who are underemployed. The increased scope will cover the additional group of people employed full-time, who worked full-time hours in the reference week (35 hours or more), and who would have preferred and were available for additional hours of work. Further details will be provided prior to this change.

ENDNOTES

1. It is assumed that these people wanted to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Measures of leave entitlements

LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS DATA FROM THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Data on whether employees have access to paid leave entitlements have been collected every three months in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from August 2014 onwards.

Employees with leave entitlements are those who were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave, or both. Employees without leave entitlements are those who were not entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave, or did not know whether they were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave. Employees without leave entitlements is the most objective and commonly used measure of casual employment.

Prior to 2014, data on leave entitlements were collected through annual Labour Force supplementary surveys, including Forms of Employment (cat. no. 6359.0) and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (cat. no. 6310.0). However, it was not possible to easily produce a coherent time series as the data were contained in different datasets (according to their respective survey) and in some cases were based on particular sets of the employed population. The requirement for increased frequency of time series data relating to casual employment was identified in the review of Labour Force statistics, as detailed in Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review (cat. no. 6107.0).

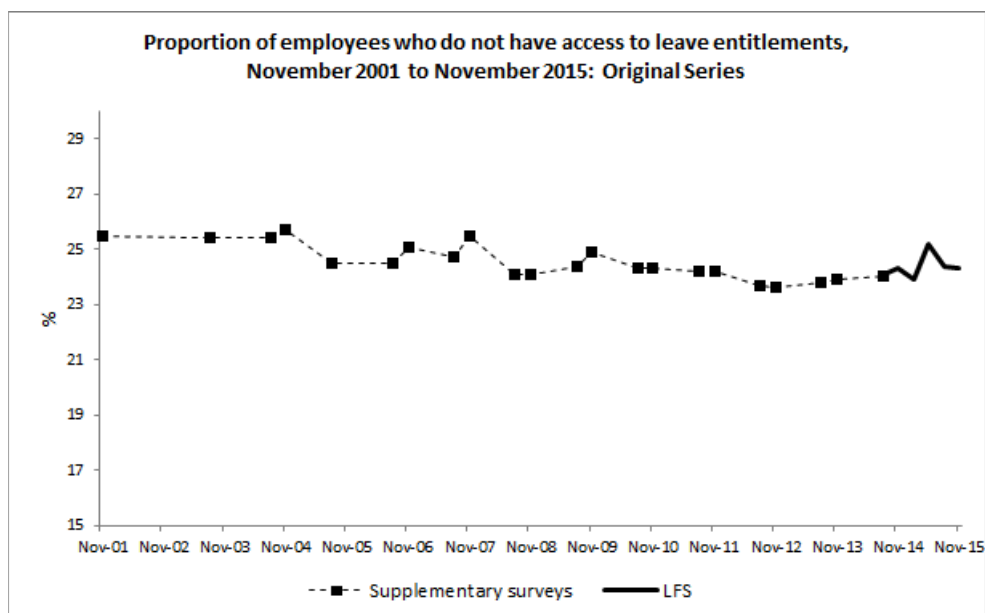
Collecting data on leave entitlements quarterly in the LFS not only enables a frequent time series, but also allows these statistics to be cross-classified with other regularly collected labour force information. Analysis of this item along with data from any supplementary surveys run in February, May, August and November is now also possible.

These statistics on leave entitlements are now generated based on the full LFS scope and sample, unlike supplementary surveys. As a result these new LFS estimates and those from supplementary surveys differ due to the fact that supplementary surveys are not conducted on the full LFS scope and sample (presently they are run on at most seven eighths of the sample). This will lead to some minor differences between LFS estimates and those from supplementary surveys. Also, information from the LFS is periodically revised to reflect the latest population benchmarks, whereas time series data from supplementary surveys have not normally revised.

The new data on leave entitlements are available from the November 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) in Table 13.

The graph below compares the new LFS data to previously available data from supplementary surveys for estimates of the proportion of employees who did not have access to paid leave entitlements over time. In original terms the proportion of employees who do not have access to leave entitlements in May 2015 was 25.2%, the highest rate since 2007, before the Global Financial Crisis.

PROPORTION OF EMPLOYEES WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS



Measures of current duration of employment

DURATION WITH CURRENT EMPLOYER/BUSINESS

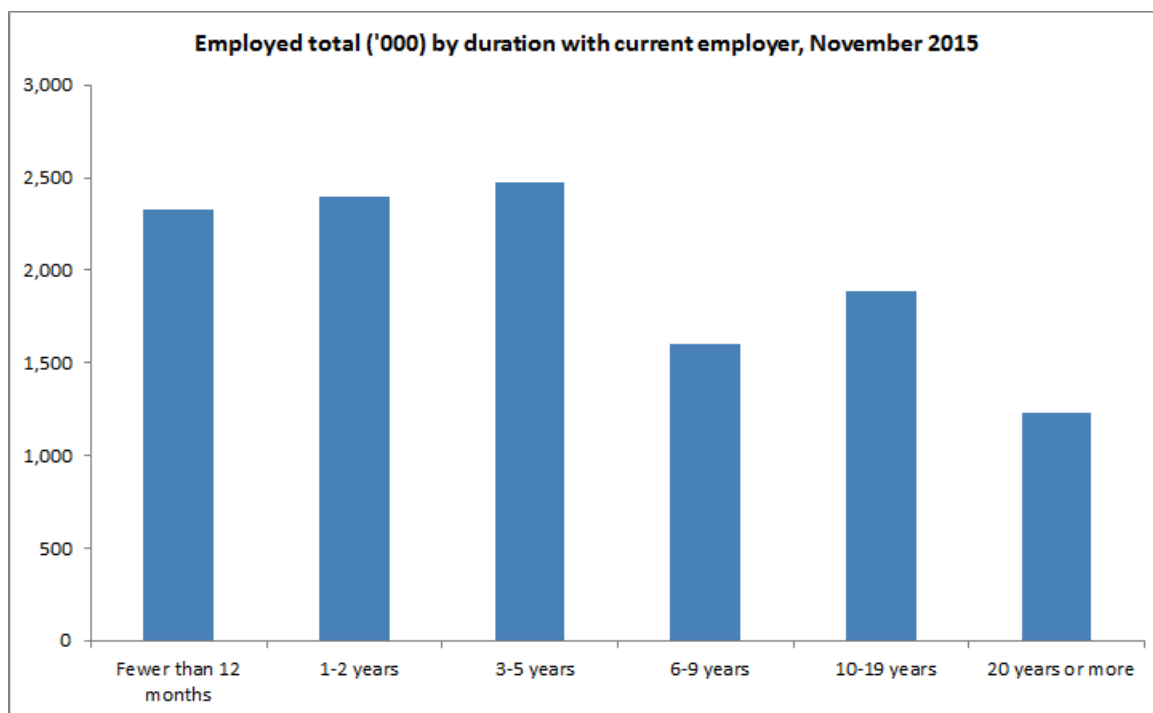
The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has collected information on an employed person's duration with their current employer/business every three months since May 2001. Data were collected from employed people as to whether they had been employed for a year or more, or the number of months they were employed, if this duration was less than a year. This resulted in a considerable amount of detail being captured on durations of less than one year but not for durations of more than one year. While not available from the LFS, publications from the annual supplementary surveys, Forms of Employment (cat. no. 6359.0) and Labour Mobility (cat. no. 6209.0), presented more detailed breakdowns of duration with current employer over one year (e.g. single years between 1 and 20 years, and 'More than 20 years').

From July 2014, the LFS has collected information on the number of years employed for those employed over a year, up to 20 years. The publication of this more detailed information is a result of the review of Labour Force statistics, as detailed in Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review (cat. no. 6107.0). These data were first released with the August 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) in Table 17.

Data on duration of employment with current employer/business for less than one year are comparable with previously available quarterly LFS data. However, the new LFS estimates for duration over one year may differ from Forms of Employment and Labour Mobility supplementary surveys due to the fact that supplementary surveys are not conducted on the full LFS scope or sample (presently they are run on at most seven eighths of the sample). This will lead to some minor differences between LFS estimates and those from supplementary surveys. Also, estimates from the LFS are periodically revised to reflect the latest population benchmarks, whereas time series data from supplementary surveys have not normally been revised.

Consistent with previous data, those employed less than a year comprise about one fifth of total employment. The new data also show that a high number of employed people have had duration of two years or less with their employer/business (around 40% of all employed people). At the other end of the distribution, around 10% of employed people had a duration of 20 years and more.

EMPLOYED PEOPLE, DURATION WITH CURRENT EMPLOYER/BUSINESS, NOVEMBER 2015



Volume measures of underutilisation

VOLUME MEASURES OF LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION FROM THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

There are generally two approaches for analysing data related to labour underutilisation - headcount (number of people) and volume measures (based on hours). While headline measures of unemployment and underemployment usually relate to headcounts, the hours measures provide further information important for analysing the labour market.

Specifically, volume measures relate to the unused potential hours of labour in comparison to the hours usually worked by employed people. They are relevant for analysing the spare capacity of the labour force, as they take into account the number of hours sought and additional hours preferred by individuals whose labour is not fully utilised.

As of August 2014, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) has obtained information every three months on the volume of potential labour relating to unemployment and underemployment. This requirement was identified in the review of Labour Force statistics, as detailed in Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review (cat. no. 6107.0).

Prior to this, volume measures of labour underutilisation were available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0). These measures were constructed on an annual basis using the following data:

- Data from Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0), used to determine the number of hours of work sought by unemployed people;
- Data from Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0), used to determine additional hours preferred for people working part-time;
- Data on potential hours of full-time underemployed people from the LFS.

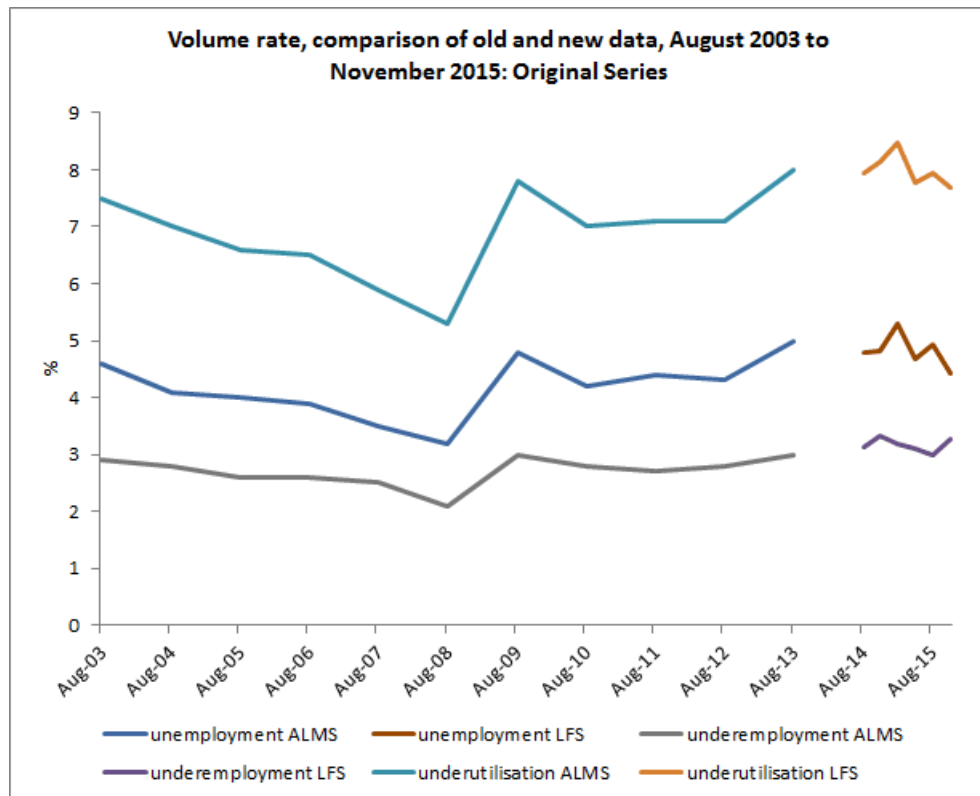
As these data were previously collected annually in July and September respectively, factors from these supplementary survey data were applied to August LFS data, and volume measures were constructed in respect of August of each year.

The new data on volume measures are available from the November 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly publication (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) in tables 23a and 23b.

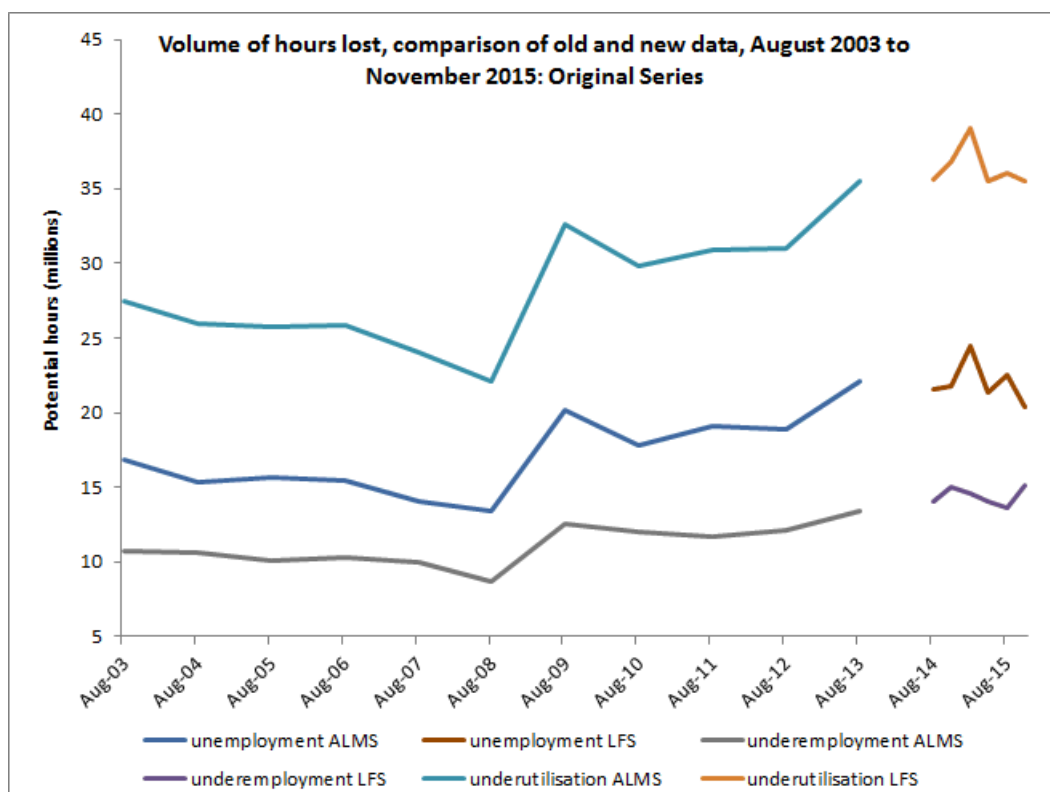
Comparisons of the new LFS data to the previously constructed data from Australian Labour Market Statistics is shown in the graphs below. They show the percentage of underutilised hours that are available to the labour market, from unemployed and underemployed people. While unemployed people only account for around a third of the headcount measure, they contribute more than half of the underutilised hours in the labour market (given they currently have less than one hour of work, whereas underemployed people have some hours of work and therefore

less potential for additional work).

VOLUME RATES, COMPARISON OF OLD AND NEW DATA



VOLUME OF HOURS LOST, COMPARISON OF OLD AND NEW DATA



Measures of retrenchment

RETRENCHMENT DATA FROM LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Data on retrenchment have been collected every three months in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from August 2014

onwards. Information on retrenchment is critical to understanding the performance of the labour market, particularly during economic downturns.

Previously, retrenchment information was available from the two-yearly Labour Mobility (cat. no. 6209.0) supplementary survey. However the data were limited due to the frequency of the survey and scope of retrenchments (only focusing on the 12 month period up to the survey). Retrenchment data have been collected from the LFS on a quarterly basis since May 2001, but only for the current unemployed population (missing retrenched people who had either re-entered employment during the quarter or who were not in the labour force).

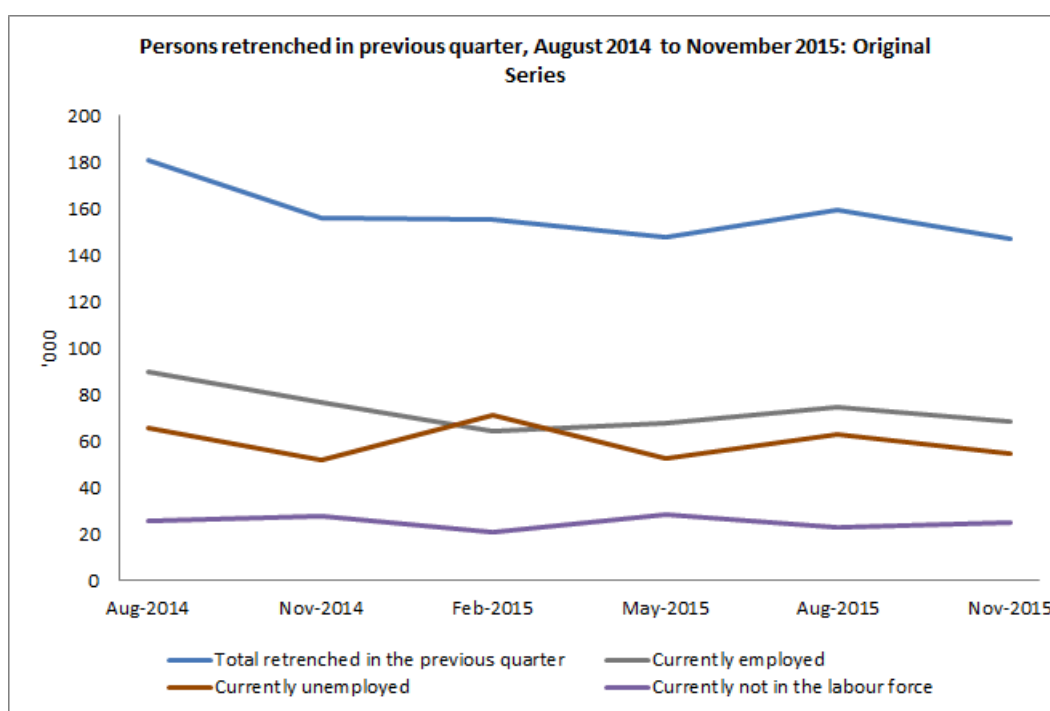
The need for a comprehensive and frequent measure of retrenchment was identified in the review of Labour Force statistics, as detailed in Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review (cat. no. 6107.0). These new statistics on retrenchment will also be published on a revised definition.

The new data cover retrenchment occurring in any job held in the three months prior to the survey reference week, not just the last job, and irrespective of a person's current labour force status. The new definition no longer includes persons dismissed from their job, and is measured by the total number of persons who ceased a job during the last three months because they were either:

- i) Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, no work was available; or
- ii) Self-employed persons whose business closed down for economic reasons, including went broke, liquidated, no work, no supply or demand.

The new output will provide users with a more frequent measure of the impacts of structural change in the economy and its consequences, as well as a socio-demographic picture of those who have been retrenched or made redundant.

The graph shows the number of people retrenched in the previous quarter from August 2014 to November 2015 and their labour force status.



In addition to information on the number of people retrenched, a retrenchment rate is available. The denominator for the retrenchment rate is the number of persons employed in the middle month of the previous quarter. For example, for a November retrenchment rate, the November month estimate of the total number of persons retrenched during the last three months is divided by the number of persons employed in August. The previous quarter's employed estimate is used for the denominator as a proxy for people who held a job sometime in the last three months.

These data beginning August 2014 are available from the November 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) in tables 29a and 29b.

Measures of sector of main job

SECTOR (PUBLIC/PRIVATE) OF MAIN JOB

Data on public and private sector of main job have been collected every three months in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from August 2014 onwards. Prior to this, these data were available through the Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (cat. no. 6310.0) and Working Time Arrangements (cat. no. 6342.0) supplementary survey publications.

The provision of more frequent estimates of sector of main job was identified in the review of Labour Force statistics, as detailed in Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review (cat. no. 6107.0). These data are important in understanding the public and private sector components of the labour market and their contributions to the economy.

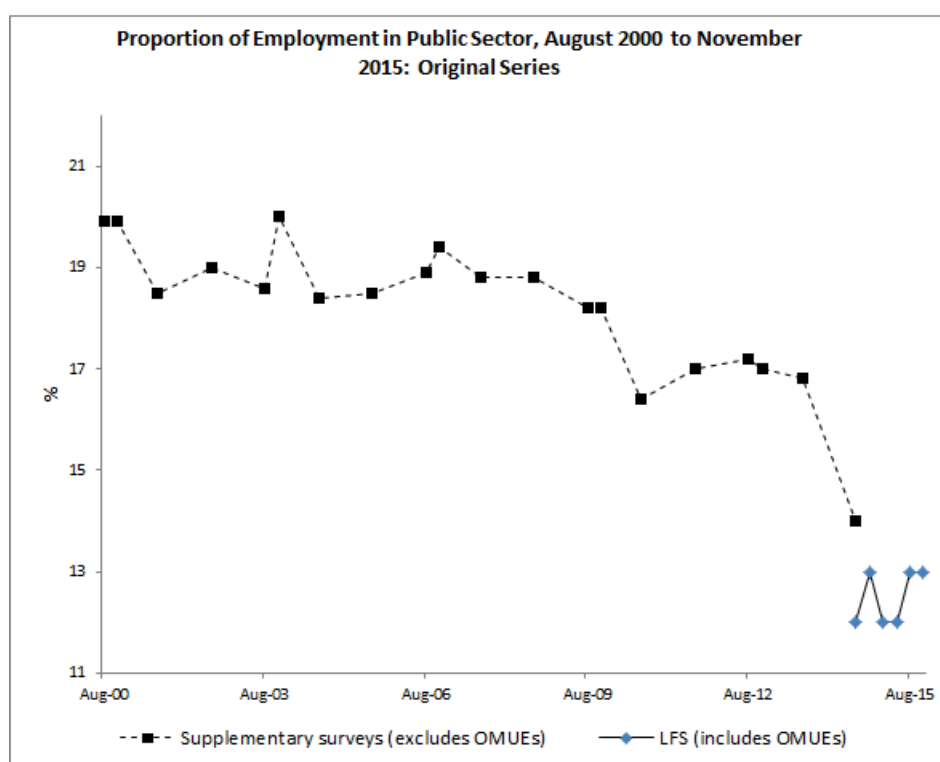
Sector (public/private) of main job is used to classify a respondent's employer as a public or private enterprise. The public sector includes all government units, such as government departments, non-market non-profit institutions that are controlled and mainly financed by government, and corporations and quasi-corporations that are controlled by government. Private sector refers to enterprises that are not controlled by Commonwealth, state/territory or local governments (i.e. any enterprise that is not part of the public sector). More information on public and private sector is available in Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia (SESCA) (cat. no. 1218.0).

Sector (public/private) of main job is derived from the industry and business name collected in the LFS. A small number of responses are coded to "sector not further defined" as a result of insufficient information, and are considered private sector jobs.

Sector (public/private) of main job in the LFS has a broader scope than that of the supplementary surveys, as it includes Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises (OMUEs), while the supplementary surveys excluded OMUEs from their scope. These new LFS estimates and those from supplementary surveys also differ as the supplementary surveys are not conducted on the full LFS scope or sample (presently they are run on at most seven eighths of the sample). As a result, there may be small differences between sector of main job estimates from supplementary surveys and those from the LFS. Also, estimates from the LFS are periodically revised to reflect the latest population benchmarks, whereas time series data from supplementary surveys have not normally been revised.

Information on public and private sector of main job are available from the November 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) in tables 26a, 26b, 27 and 28.

The graph below compares estimates of the proportion of workers in the public sector over time from both the LFS and previous supplementary surveys. In November 2015, 13% of employed people had a main job in the public sector, and 87% in the private sector.



The difference in the two data series is primarily due to the inclusion of OMUEs.

Article Archive

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication date.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

Labour Force Survey Archive

What's New in the Labour Force	October 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	September 2015
Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey	August 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	July 2015
Progress with recommendations from the Independent Technical Review	July 2015
Assessing Volatility in the Labour Force Series	June 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	June 2015
Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Independent Technical Review	June 2015
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Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	December 2013
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Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey	September 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	September 2013
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Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey	April 2013
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Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market	February 2013
Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys	January 2013
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Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey	July 2012
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Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia	May 2012
ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates	April 2012
Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey	April 2012
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	March 2012

Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness
Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics
Historical Revisions
Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey

February 2012
January 2012
November 2011
February 2011
January 2011

Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

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Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

About this Release

A range of quarterly Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 23/12/2015.

23/12/2015

Additional Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) November 2015 release of new quarterly Labour Force outputs including information relating to:

- Volume measures of labour underutilisation,
- Retrenchment,
- Sector of main job (public / private), and
- Leave entitlements.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

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Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error** (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To determine if an item has a relative standard error of 25% or more, in SuperTABLE, right click in the centre of the table, select **annotate cells - standard annotations**, and select **'Annotate RSE cut-off values'**.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The RSEs for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
Employed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.9	3.1	3.7	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.5
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.3	3.0	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	6.6
Nov-07	6.2	3.2	4.3	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	6.4
Dec-07	6.1	3.4	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.2
Jan-08	6.0	3.6	4.2	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	6.0
Feb-08	5.9	3.8	4.2	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	5.9
Mar-08	5.9	4.1	4.2	2.4	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.7
Apr-08	5.8	4.4	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.6
May-08	5.7	4.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.4
Jun-08	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.3
Jul-08 — Aug-09	6.9	6.1	5.3	3.1	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.6	7.4
Sep-09	6.5	5.8	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	7.0
Oct-09	6.1	5.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	6.5
Nov-09	5.8	5.2	4.5	2.6	3.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	6.2
Dec-09 — Jun-13	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.8
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.8
Feb-14 onwards	7.9	3.9	5.6	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.9
Unemployed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.7	5.7	4.5	2.6	3.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	4.9

Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.0	5.4	4.9	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.2
Nov-07	6.1	5.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	5.2
Dec-07	6.2	5.5	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	5.2
Jan-08	6.3	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	5.2
Feb-08	6.4	5.7	5.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	1.7	1.8	5.1
Mar-08	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.1
Apr-08	6.8	5.9	5.5	3.2	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	5.2
May-08	6.9	6.0	5.5	3.3	4.8	1.9	1.4	2.0	5.1
Jun-08	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.1
Jul-08 — Aug-09	9.3	8.0	7.4	4.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	2.8	7.3
Sep-09	8.7	7.5	6.8	4.1	6.1	2.4	1.6	2.5	6.8
Oct-09	8.1	7.0	6.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	6.4
Nov-09	7.5	6.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	6.0
Dec-09 — Jun-13	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.7
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.3	6.6	8.4	3.7	5.8	1.7	1.3	2.2	7.1
Feb-14 onwards	7.4	6.7	8.6	3.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	2.3	7.3

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Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	6.4	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	6.0
Mar-03 — Oct-07	7.8	3.7	5.2	3.0	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	7.3
Nov-07	7.6	3.9	5.1	3.0	3.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	7.0
Dec-07	7.4	4.1	5.1	3.0	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	6.8
Jan-08	7.3	4.4	5.0	3.0	3.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	6.6
Feb-08	7.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	6.3
Mar-08	7.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	3.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	6.2
Apr-08	7.0	5.4	5.3	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	6.0
May-08	6.8	5.7	5.2	3.2	4.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun-08	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.6
Jul-08 — Aug-09	8.3	7.6	6.5	4.0	5.2	1.8	1.4	2.0	8.0
Sep-09	7.8	7.2	6.1	3.7	4.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	7.4
Oct-09	7.3	6.7	5.8	3.5	4.6	1.6	1.2	1.8	6.9
Nov-09	6.9	6.4	5.4	3.3	4.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	6.5
Dec-09 — Jun-13	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	6.2
Jul-13 — Jan-14	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0
Feb-14 onwards	8.5	4.5	9.9	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.8	2.5	9.1

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas	Feb-78 — Sep-82	Oct-82 — Aug-87	Sep-87 — Feb-89	Mar-89 — Aug-92	Sep-92 — Aug-97	Sep-97 — Sep-98	Oct-98 — Feb-03
Greater Sydney	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Rest of NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Greater Melbourne	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	3.3
Rest of Victoria	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.2
Greater Brisbane	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.4
Rest of Queensland	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.6
Greater Adelaide	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Rest of South Australia	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5
Greater Perth	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.3
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Greater Hobart	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Rest of Tasmania	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
	Mar-03 — Feb-08	Mar-08 — Jun-08	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 — Jun-13	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb-14 onwards	
Greater Sydney	6.5	5.7	7.1	5.7	7.6	7.7	
Rest of NSW	6.4	5.6	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.6	
Greater Melbourne	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.0	4.0	
Rest of Victoria	3.1	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9	
Greater Brisbane	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.9	6.0	
Rest of Queensland	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	6.3	6.4	
Greater Adelaide	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	
Rest of South Australia	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	
Greater Perth	2.6	3.5	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0	
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	

Greater Hobart	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	
Rest of Tasmania	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	
Statistical Area Level 4 Regions	Oct-98 — Feb-03	Mar-03 — Feb-08	Mar-08 — Jun-08	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 — Jun-13	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb-14 onwards
Central Coast	7.4	8.5	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.2	10.4
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	7.2	8.3	7.0	9.2	7.0	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Blacktown	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - City and Inner South	8.5	9.7	8.3	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.9
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	9.6	11.0	9.3	12.2	9.3	13.1	13.4
Sydney - Inner South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Inner West	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	7.6	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Northern Beaches	7.8	8.9	7.6	9.9	7.6	10.7	10.9
Sydney - Outer South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Parramatta	7.8	8.9	7.6	10.0	7.6	10.8	11.0
Sydney - Ryde	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - South West	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Sutherland	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Capital Region	7.2	8.2	7.0	9.2	7.0	9.9	10.1
Central West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Far West and Orana	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	10.0
Illawarra	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Mid North Coast	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.3	10.6
Murray	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
New England and North West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	9.9
Richmond - Tweed	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Riverina	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	9.0	10.3	8.7	11.4	8.7	12.3	12.6
Melbourne - Inner	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
Melbourne - Inner East	3.6	3.4	6.2	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.6
Melbourne - Inner South	3.7	3.5	6.4	8.4	6.4	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - North East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - North West	3.7	3.6	6.5	8.6	6.5	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - Outer East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - South East	3.6	3.4	6.3	8.3	6.3	4.6	4.7
Melbourne - West	3.5	3.4	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.4	4.5
Mornington Peninsula	3.6	3.5	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.6	4.7
Ballarat	4.0	3.8	6.9	9.1	6.9	5.0	5.1
Bendigo	3.8	3.7	6.7	8.8	6.7	4.9	5.0
Geelong	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Hume	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Latrobe - Gippsland	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
North West	3.9	3.7	6.8	8.9	6.8	4.9	5.0
Shepparton	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Warrnambool and South West	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Brisbane - East	4.1	5.1	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.2
Brisbane - North	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.3
Brisbane - South	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.8	5.2	8.2	8.4
Brisbane - West	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.2	8.3
Brisbane Inner City	4.2	5.3	5.3	6.9	5.3	8.4	8.6
Ipswich	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.9	8.1
Logan - Beaudesert	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.4	8.6
Moreton Bay - North	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	7.7	7.9
Moreton Bay - South	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.3	4.8	7.7	7.9
Cairns	4.9	6.2	6.1	8.0	6.1	9.7	9.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.1	9.3
Fitzroy	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Gold Coast	4.3	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	8.6	8.7
Mackay	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5

Queensland - Outback	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Sunshine Coast	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.5	8.7
Toowoomba	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Townsville	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Wide Bay	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Adelaide - Central and Hills	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - North	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - South	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
Adelaide - West	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Barossa - Yorke - Mid North	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.0
South Australia - Outback	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
South Australia - South East	3.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5
Mandurah	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Perth - Inner	3.1	3.5	4.9	6.5	4.9	5.8	5.9
Perth - North East	2.9	3.3	4.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	5.5
Perth - North West	2.8	3.2	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	5.3
Perth - South East	2.9	3.3	4.7	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.6
Perth - South West	2.7	3.1	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.1
Bunbury	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Western Australia - Outback	2.8	3.3	4.6	6.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Greater Hobart	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Launceston and North East	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.8
Tasmania - South East	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Tasmania - West and North West	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8
Darwin	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9
Northern Territory - Outback	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 32 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 39 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 94%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.